

## LIMITATIONS ON “THREE STRIKES” LAW. SEX CRIMES. PUNISHMENT. INITIATIVE STATUTE.

### ARGUMENT in Favor of Proposition 66

Ten years ago, voters were asked to pass tougher sentences for repeat violent criminals. We approved the Three Strikes law because that’s what we were told it would do.

We weren’t told that Three Strikes would also lock up nonviolent, petty offenders for life.

**VOTING YES ON PROPOSITION 66 WILL RESTORE THREE STRIKES TO ITS PROMISE AND THE ORIGINAL INTENT OF VOTERS.**

Voting **YES ON PROPOSITION 66** will:

- Not result in the release of criminals currently serving time for murder, rape, kidnapping, child molestation, and other truly violent and serious crimes.
- Apply commonsense sentences to nonviolent, petty offenders.
- Save taxpayers hundreds of millions of dollars every year that are wasted on keeping videotape, bread or T-shirt thieves and bad check writers in prison for life.
- Protect our children by stopping child molesters with a “1 Strike” sentence.

Proponents of the 1994 law claimed that, “Three Strikes keeps career criminals, who rape women, molest innocent children and commit murder, behind bars where they belong.”

But, according to the California Department of Corrections, almost 65% of those serving second and third strike sentences were convicted of nonviolent, petty offenses such as writing a bad check, stealing a videotape, loaf of bread or pack of T-shirts.

**CALIFORNIANS INTENDED THAT THE THREE STRIKES LAW TARGET MURDERERS, RAPISTS, AND KIDNAPPERS, NOT VIDEOTAPE AND T-SHIRT THIEVES. PROPOSITION 66 WILL RESTORE THREE STRIKES TO WHAT VOTERS INTENDED.**

*After ten years, Three Strikes has stuck California taxpayers with a \$6 billion bill to punish videotape and T-shirt thieves, and other nonviolent petty offenders.*

*Voting yes on Proposition 66 will save taxpayers billions of dollars over the next decade by doing what makes sense—ensuring that only truly dangerous or violent repeat crim-*

*inals, such as murderers and kidnappers, spend the rest of their lives in prison.*

*Don’t be fooled by what opponents say. No one serving time for rape, murder, kidnapping, or child molestation will be released by passage of Proposition 66.*

**PROPOSITION 66 IS NOT ABOUT GETTING SOFT ON CRIME, IT’S ABOUT GETTING SMART ON CRIME.**

Read what others are saying:

- *Orange County Register*: “The measure . . . will end the unreasonable practice under current law of sending those convicted of petty offenses to life in prison at great cost to taxpayers.”
- *The Sacramento Bee*: “California needs to modify its three-strikes law, the harshest in the nation.”
- *San Jose Mercury News*: “The law is wasting tens of millions of tax dollars . . . and wasting lives.”
- *Fresno Bee*: “Californians have a legitimate interest in protecting themselves by putting away for life . . . violent habitual criminals. But the “Three Strikes” law should not be netting nonviolent, three-time shoplifters for 25-years-to-life sentences.”
- *San Francisco Chronicle*: “. . . studies by criminal-justice experts show the law to be unduly costly . . . and failing in its primary mission to curb crime.”

**VOTING YES ON PROPOSITION 66 WILL RESTORE THREE STRIKES TO THE ORIGINAL INTENT OF THE VOTERS, SAVE TAXPAYERS BILLIONS OF DOLLARS, AND PROVIDE EVEN STRONGER PROTECTION FOR OUR CHILDREN FROM PREDATORY CHILD MOLESTERS.**

**VOTE YES ON PROPOSITION 66.**

[www.yesonproposition66.com](http://www.yesonproposition66.com)

**RED HODGES, President**

*Violence Research Foundation*

**REV. RICK SCHLOSSER, Executive Director**

*California Church Impact*

**RONALD HAMPTON, Executive Director**

*National Black Police Association*

### REBUTTAL to Argument in Favor of Proposition 66

A wealthy businessman whose adult son is in prison for killing two people and seriously injuring another spent \$1.57 million to put Proposition 66 on the ballot. If it passes, his son will be released early. So could some 26,000 other convicted criminals, according to the California District Attorneys Association—which is why the Governor, the Attorney General and every District Attorney in California oppose it.

Proponents of Proposition 66 want you to believe California prisons are filled with petty criminals serving life sentences for writing bad checks and stealing T-shirts. In fact, the average California inmate is convicted of five felonies before ever being sent to state prison. These are hardcore criminals who’ve worked hard to be in prison.

Judges and district attorneys already have the discretion not to prosecute petty crimes as “strike” offenses. In those rare cases where petty criminals have received disproportionate sentences, the courts have shortened them.

Proposition 66 won’t keep murderers, rapists, child molesters, and other violent criminals in prison. It

releases thousands of inmates with long records of serious and violent crime—including murder, rape, and child molesting.

Nor will Proposition 66 protect children. It puts some of California’s most notorious child molesters back on the street.

Proposition 66 won’t save tax money. It will cost taxpayers millions to return thousands of inmates to county jails for re-sentencing and release, and billions more to deal with the cost of higher crime and violence.

Even if you believe “3 Strikes” should be modified, Proposition 66 isn’t the answer.

**CAM SANCHEZ, President**

*California Police Chiefs Association*

**JON COUPAL, President**

*Howard Jarvis Taxpayers Association*

**SHEILA ANDERSON, President**

*Prevent Child Abuse California*